UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1994/114
19 July 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994
Agenda item 5 (c)

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its substantive session of 1993, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1993/55 of 29 July 1993 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In paragraph 15 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to report thereon to the Council.

2. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/47 of 10 December 1993, in paragraph 20 of which it requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

3. Taking into account the above-mentioned resolutions, the President is of the view that the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations should strengthen existing measures of support and formulate additional programmes of assistance to the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. As most of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories are islands, small in size and population, geographically isolated and vulnerable to natural disasters, such as hurricanes and cyclones, as well as relatively undeveloped economically, they are particularly dependent on external assistance. The specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international and regional organizations, should therefore be invited to examine and review conditions in each of the Territories, commensurate with the pressing needs of the peoples concerned for increased transfer of resources, technology and know-how, and take appropriate measures to accelerate economic and social progress.

4. In accordance with the terms of Council resolution 1993/55, the President of the Council maintained close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee during the period under review and, on the basis of those contacts and in the light of related developments, submits to the Council the observations set out below, with a view to facilitating Council consideration of the present item.

5. During the year, members of the Council and the Special Committee followed closely the work of their respective bodies relating to the item. The President considers it both useful and essential that such contacts and cooperation continue to be maintained and strengthened to mobilize the maximum possible assistance to the peoples of the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

6. According to the information provided by specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, during the period under review a number of specialized agencies and organizations have continued to extend

assistance to the peoples of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, in response to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee. A number of organizations have extended or formulated such programmes of assistance from within their own budgetary resources, in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the primary provider of assistance. (For the contribution of UNDP, see A/49/216, sect. II.)

7. A number of assistance projects have continued to be funded by UNDP in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. The President of the Council notes that the recalculated fifth cycle (1992-1996) indicative planning figures (IPFs), constituting 70 per cent of original IPFs established for some of those Territories, including estimated cost sharing, cover the following: Anguilla, US$ 747,000; British Virgin Islands, $78,000; Cayman Islands, $270,000; Montserrat, $337,000; Saint Helena, $983,000; Tokelau, $838,000; Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau), $229,000; and Turks and Caicos Islands, $680,000. These amounts cover assistance in the primary economic sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries industry, transportation, communication and power generation, as well as in the social and educational sectors, and are being executed by a number of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in close cooperation, where appropriate, with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

I. SUPPORT BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO TRUST AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

International Labour Organization

8. The International Labour Organization (ILO), as the executing agency, has been carrying out technical cooperation projects and other activities in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

9. In Anguilla, ILO undertook for the Government an evaluation of its social security scheme, aimed, inter alia, at widening the scope of coverage to include the entire working population.

10. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, ILO provided training in equipment maintenance and repair to technical staff of the Ministry of Works, Utilities and Labour, as well as to other government services. It also provided assistance in the fields of vocational training and social security and helped establish a national insurance scheme.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

11. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been involved in providing assistance to some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean at the request of UNDP or CARICOM.

12. FAO took steps to set up a regional project for Anguilla and Montserrat involving the strengthening of veterinary services, for which both FAO and

CARICOM sought funding. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, the services of a consultant were provided by FAO for a project on integrated development planning.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

13. Activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Non-Self-Governing Territories have been undertaken mainly in the areas of education, culture and communication.

14. UNESCO helped to develop a comprehensive drug prevention system in Anguilla and, in this regard, provided training to selected educational personnel in various domains, including management and planning skills, development of curriculum modules and instructional materials, and peer counselling.

15. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, UNESCO trained project directors in the field of education in the development of an appropriate curriculum for preventive drug education.

World Health Organization

16. The World Health Organization (WHO), whose technical cooperation is coordinated by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), assisted Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos Islands in the areas of community water supply and sanitation, health services development, material and child health, as well as in the control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

17. UNCTAD has a number of technical assistance activities of particular interest to non-self-governing island countries. The following TRAINFORTRADE projects are being prepared or are under implementation.

18. A regional training project in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) region has just started to be implemented. This project will involve training events in trade-related subjects for the eight countries and territories of the group, either at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (St. Lucia), or in a decentralized manner in any of the member States. The latter include Montserrat (full member) and the British Virgin Islands (associate member). It is envisaged that invitations to benefit from these training events will also be extended to Anguilla at no cost to the project.

19. A project for non-OECS countries and territories of CARICOM is in preparation and is expected to begin before the end of this year. The project will benefit the Turks and Caicos Islands as a member of CARICOM.

20. A regional project in preparation concerns the ACP countries of the Pacific and is also expected to begin before the end of this year. Member States of the Forum Secretariat which are not ACP States may receive courtesy invitations to participate in training events at no additional cost to the project. This concerns Tokelau, as well as Nieu and the Cook Islands under New Zealand administration.

21. UNCTAD secretariat's Automated System for Customs Data, which was set up in the framework of its programme on trade facilitation in the area of customs automation and reform, has been installed or is being implemented in a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Tokelau and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

United Nations Population Fund

22. In view of the link between population and development, on the one hand, and the impact of population on economic and social activity, on the other, UNDP has worked in close collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in assisting Non-Self-Governing Territories in their preparation for the International Conference on Population Development, to be held at Cairo in 1994.

II. CONCLUSION

23. Subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its forty-ninth session and in conformity with such decisions as might be taken by the Council, the President of the Council shall continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.